

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Key Findings: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States

The number of foreign students in the United States is high, but the proportion is low. In fact, the proportion of foreign students in the United States is less than half that of three G8 countries (France, Germany and the United Kingdom)

The increasing interconnectedness of the worlds' economies places an increased premium on individuals' knowledge of other cultures, languages, and business methods. Higher education plays a major role in expanding students' knowledge in these areas, especially when this education takes place outside of their native country. Studying in a foreign country may also serve to provide students with a broader array of educational opportunities than what is offered within their own country. This indicator examines the number and percentage of foreign

students enrolled in programs of higher education in the G8 countries in 2001.

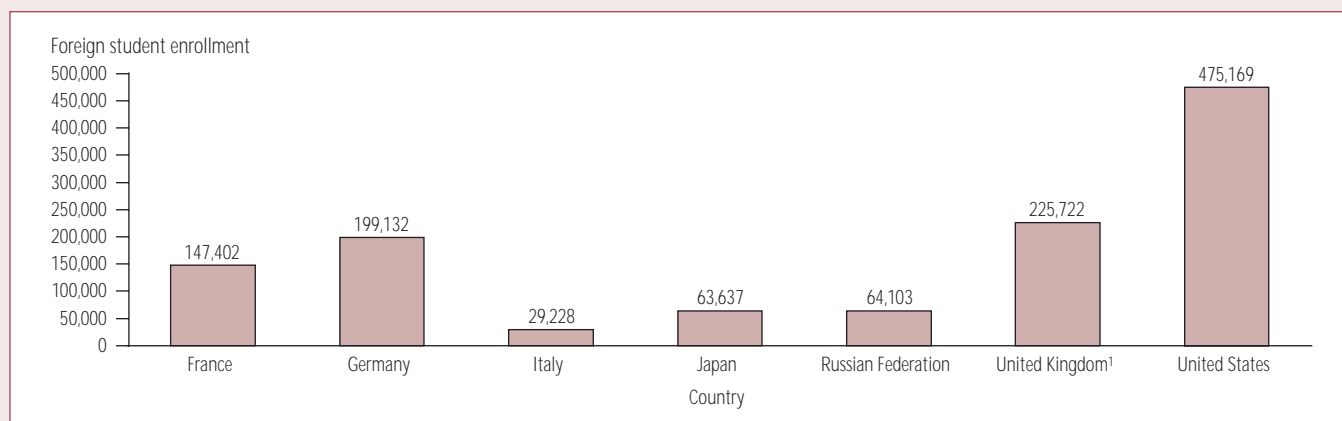
There were 475,169 foreign students enrolled in higher education in the United States in 2001 (figure 23a). This number was higher than the numbers in any of the other G8 countries, although as a percentage of all students in the country it is not among the highest (figure 23b). Foreign students comprised 4 percent of the total higher education enrollment in the United States. Among the G8 countries presented, the United Kingdom had the largest proportion of foreign students in postsecondary education programs in 2001 (11 percent), followed by Germany (10 percent), and France (7 percent). Countries with the smallest proportions of foreign students included Italy, Japan, and the Russian Federation (all 2 percent or less).

Definitions and Methodology

Education levels are defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Higher education in this indicator refers to ISCED levels 5A, 5B, and 6. For a complete description of the ISCED levels, see the appendix.

Foreign student enrollment is reported as a proportion of the total enrollment in higher education programs in the host country. Total enrollment, used as the denominator, includes all foreign and domestic students in the country and excludes all students from the host country who are studying abroad.

Figure 23a. Total foreign students enrolled in higher education programs from all reporting destinations, by country: 2001

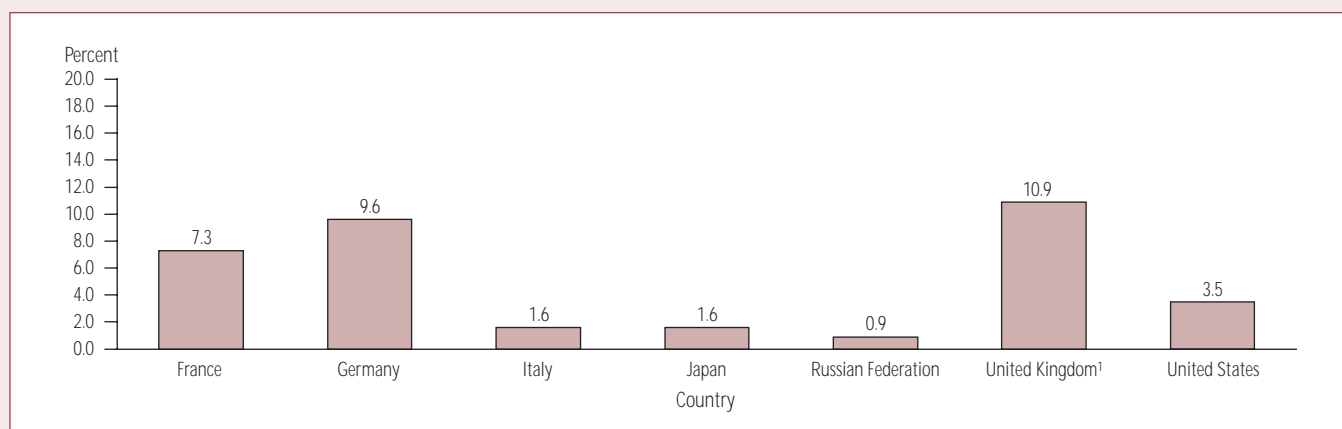


¹The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

NOTE: Reporting destinations include 30 OECD countries and 166 non-OECD countries. Education levels are defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Higher education refers to ISCED level 5A (academic higher education-first stage), 5B (technical and vocational higher education), and 6 (academic higher education-second stage/ doctoral studies) except where otherwise noted. For more information on ISCED levels, see the appendix.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), (2003). *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2003*, Table C3.5 (additional web table).

Figure 23b. Foreign students as a percentage of all students enrolled in higher education programs, by country: 2001



¹The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

NOTE: Reporting destinations include 30 OECD countries and 166 non-OECD countries. Education levels are defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Higher education includes academic higher education first-stage, ISCED level 5A, vocational/technical higher education, ISCED level 5B, and academic higher education second-stage (doctoral studies), ISCED level 6. For more information on ISCED levels, see the appendix.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), (2003). *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2003*, Table C3.1.